

Canada—U.S. Automotive Agreement

• (12:20 p.m.)

January, 1965. Can he explain why the deficit has increased rather than decreased and will the objective of cutting it in half be reached by the end of 1968?

Mr. Gray: First of all, I take issue with my hon. friend when he suggests that the primary aim of the treaty was to cut down the deficit.

Mr. Starr: Of course it was.

Mr. Gray: The primary aim was to increase production and employment in Canada and increase the number of jobs—

Mr. Starr: There is some more fiction.

Mr. Gray: —available to Canadians. If my hon. friends in the official opposition would be as interested in job opportunities for human beings as they are in dollar signs—

Mr. Starr: The only reason there are jobs available now is that the former government put into effect policies which brought this about. The hon. member admitted that the upward trend of employment started in 1961 when you were not even in office.

Mr. Gray: I will say to my hon. friend that I certainly did not intend to make remarks which would create bitter controversy.

Mr. Starr: Then why do you not speak the truth?

Mr. Gray: I think, Mr. Speaker, that my hon. friend is not expressing himself in a way which is worthy of the position he held and holds in this house.

Mr. Starr: But I always tell the truth in this house.

Mr. Gray: I am attempting to tell the truth to no lesser extent myself. I am sure he will have an opportunity to make a speech if he wishes. In answer to my friend, I should like to point out that in so far as the Windsor area is concerned jobs certainly did not increase in 1961, they dropped in 1962 and began rising only after the present government took office.

Mr. Starr: After devaluation of the dollar.

Mr. Gray: Employment in Windsor dropped the month after devaluation of the dollar came into effect.

Mr. Starr: How can you sleep at night?

Mr. Gray: When I look at the facts in the city of Windsor as a result of the policy of

The same applies if trends of dislocation accelerate beyond what they seem to be today, trends which so far have been very slight in comparison to the not only vastly expanded opportunities for employment but also actual increases in jobs which the evidence before us demonstrates. Taking into account all aspects of the treaty itself, including the definite increase in production and employment in the automotive industry in Canada, I think the evidence is such that this house should support the resolution before us. I urge the house to join with supporters of the government and others and vote in favour of this resolution so that with confirmation of the treaty by the House of Commons we may hope for even more by way of expanded opportunities for production and employment in the automotive industry and for all secondary industry in Canada.

Mr. Starr: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member for Essex West which has to do with what he said in the fictitious discourse to which we have listened for the last number of minutes. He compared the unemployment figures of 1962 and 1963 with the figures at the present time. I realize there has been an increase through a normal advance in production. Can he tell me what the increase in the figures for employment is between January, 1965, when this treaty came into effect, and the present time in addition to what would have been the normal increase in employment?

Mr. Gray: I do not have the full figures available, Mr. Speaker, but according to partial information made available to the Department of Industry I understand that at least 10,000 new jobs can be attributed directly to new plants and expansions of which the Department of Industry has been informed. This is only partial information because I understand there is no obligation on the firms to give complete and detailed information in every case. I am trying, if you will pardon the expression, to be conservative in the figures I am putting forward. It may be that when the minister concludes the debate he will be able to supplement my partial information.

Mr. Starr: After that strange and more fictitious answer may I ask this question? Primarily the treaty was for the purpose of cutting down the automobile industry trade deficit with the United States which stood at some \$520 million during the month of